Non-Payment of Minimum Wages by Tobacco Traders

1810. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases have been booked against tobacco traders in Andhra Pradesh for not paying minimum wages to their workers:

(b) if so, what are the names of the erring traders/companies;

(c) since how long these cases are pending; and

(d) what action has been taken against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Provision for Old age Pension *to* the Agricultural Workers

1811. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM:

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to introduce a legislation for providing old age pension, medical assistance or even money for children's education to agricultural workers, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the estimate total expenditure involved in awarding such facilities during a year;

(c) what is the proposed mechanism through which such facilities will be made available to the farm labourer; and

(d) what is the safety valve to ensure that these facilities will reach the farm workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to bring forward a Central legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers and to regulate their employment and conditions of service and for matters connected therewith. The details of the said proposal have not so far been finalised'

Default in Contributions to Provident Fund

1812. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will *the* Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of Industries and companies which defaulted in depositing the Provident Fund contributions collected from the salaries of the labourers, State-wise during the last three years;

(b) the names of Industries and Companies which defaulted in depositing their contribution to Provident Fund during the last three years. State-wise; and

(c) what action Government have taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Steps to bring more workers under ESI Medical Benefit Scheme

1813. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 892,000 industrial workers are yet to be brought under the purview of the ESI medical benefit scheme: and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ensure these workers get the benefits of the ESI Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The responsibility for administration of the medical care under the ESI Scheme vests on the State Govts/UT Admns. Therefore, the State Govts. are required to make necessary medical arrangements before the ESI Scheme is implemented in a new area. Due to financial constraints, sometimes State Govts. find it difficult to complete the arrangement for medical care. In order to overcome this difficulty the ESI Corporation has decided to meet the total expenditure on medical care in respect of new areas for an initial period of three years. The ESI Corporation has formulated a phased programme for implementation of the Scheme in new areas and communicated the same to the State Govts. for making medical arrangements. Meanwhile, the Scheme is being gradually implemented in new areas so as to cover maximum number of industrial workers under the ESI Scheme.

Industrial Disputes Pending in Delhi

1814. SHRI V GOPALSAMY:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 67 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th July, 1993 and state:

(a) whether Government constituted any separate pane! of judges to preside over Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in Delhi in the recent past;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof,

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any presiding officer of Delhi Labour Court/Industrial Tribunal was recently retired compulsorily and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any other presiding officer has been appointed in his place and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the number of industrial disputes that were pending before this Labour Court/Indutrial Tribunal when the Presiding Officer was removed;

(g) whether any directive has been issued to dispose off the long pending disputes quickly; and

(h) if so. by when and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the existing practice, the officers belonging to Delhi Judicial Services/ Delhi Higher Judicial Services are appointed on deputation basis as Presiding Officers of Labour Courts/Industrial Tribunals in Delhi.

(d) Yes, Sir. Shri Y. S. Jonwal, Presiding Officer, Labour Court No. I, Delhi was retired compulsorily on 1-6-93 under Fundamental Rules 56j and Rule 33 of Delhi Judicial Service Rules, 1970.

(e) No other Presiding Officer has been appointed in his place. However, Smt. Bimla Makin, Presiding Officer, Labour Court No. VI, Delhi is looking after the work of Labour Court No. I also.

(f) 2359 industrial disputes and 2827 applications were pending before the Labour Court No. I, Delhi.

(g) and (h) Old pending cases are being reviewed periodically. The Presiding Officers of Labour Courts and Industrial Tribunals have also been advised to accord priority to old cases so that they are disposed of expeditiously.

Assistance to Insured Persons under ESIC

1S15. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total contribution received by ESIC from insured persons and employers in the year ending 1992-93 and what is the total money spent during this period for medical benefits of insured persons:

(b) what is the number of insured persons who have been provided financial assistance of more than rupees one lakh